basis for nominating members from that community to the various Town Improvement Committees.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

168. Inadequate representation of the Christian community in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

Mr. Ousep Avira Tarakan (Member, Nominated) said that, in point of population and literacy, the Christians were not behind any other community in the State. But they were not having adequate represenation in the Assembly and the fact was brought to the notice of Government at the various sessions. The Government themselves were convinced of their grievances and nomination was resorted to as a measure of relief. The number of elected taluk members from Christians at the present session was only 5 out of 43. The minimum qualification for a voter was the payment of a Sirkar tax of Rs. 50 per annum. On account of the division of properties in each family the number of individual Christians paying that tax was fewer than the number of individual members of other communities to whom partition was not permitted by law. The Member suggested that the reduction of the minimum tax from Rs. 50 to Rs. 25 would afford some relief to the Christians. If that suggestion was not considered feasible, the Christians of those taluks, where their population was large, should be allowed to elect a member of their own for each of such taluks.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

169. The Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Mahomedans.

Mr. Pitcha Vava Sahib (Member, Nominated) suggested that the Mahomedan members nominated to the Assembly every year by the Government should be those who were able and competent to bring before the notice of the Government the urgent needs of the community in the matter of education, and that they should be nominated from towns where the Mahomedans inhabited in large numbers or from associations which worked for the social regeneration of the community. He said that there were over 9,000 Mahomedans in the town of Alleppey. An association called "Lajanathul Mahamadeeya" was formed in the town to improve the general condition of the community, particularly in matters educational. Without active support from the Government it was not possible for the Mahomedans of Alleppey to achieve their object. He therefore requested that it be ruled that one of the four nominations accorded to the Mahomedans should be made from the town of Alleppey for some years tocome.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

170. Desirability of allowing one more Member to the Assembly from the Ambalapuzha taluk.

Mr. Ousep Chacko (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that trade and industry depended mainly on agriculture and therefore the latter was more important. Even though there were traders throughout the State, particular places which were trade centres were allowed to elect a member to the Assembly. There were thus seven representatives of traders. It was equally necessary to give such centres of agriculture as Kuttanad and Nanjanad, special representatives for agriculturists. It was therefore desirable to allow one more member for Ambalapuzha.

Again, the tenants holding Crown lands were everywhere treated with distinction. More than two-thirds of the Kandukrishi lands in Travancore were in his taluk and the revenue from that head alone was about three times the ordinary land revenue of a taluk. It was therefore also desirable to allow one more member for the taluk.

Dewan.—The privilege of electing two members is given to those taluks of the State which have a population of 1,25,000 and above.

The Member said that population alone should not be the basis of calculation. The revenue collected, the special conditions, etc., were also facts to be taken into consideration in determining the question. The Member requested that the privilege

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